

FIRST LANGUAGE DUTCH

Paper 0503/02

Reading and Directed Writing

General comments

This paper allows candidates, especially in the first assignment, to show their analytical skills by scanning for information, comparing texts and finding differences and similarities. In the remaining two exercises the candidates are able to use the textual information in a different way, in order to produce a speech or a formal letter, for instance. The candidates generally responded well to the tasks. They all managed to write the required number of words.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

The candidates were asked to compare two different texts. Candidates should highlight what the differences are and not just summarise the two texts. Marks were also awarded for the organisation of the writing (global structure, paragraphing, cohesion), style (vocabulary and sentence structure) and linguistic accuracy (spelling and punctuation).

The main similarities were:

- (annual) traditions;
- protests against tradition;
- people trying to find solutions/adjustments;
- populations dissatisfied with the proposed changes.

The main differences were:

- in text 1, an animal is maltreated, but in text 2 it is people who are offended or hurt;
- in text 1, the authorities forbid the tradition, but they do not in text 2;
- text 1 describes a local tradition in Spain, while text 2 describes two Dutch traditions.

Candidates were also asked to mention linguistic differences between the texts. A number of candidates limited themselves to structural analysis, e.g. both texts contain 3 paragraphs, and consequently could not be awarded marks. A good answer should include the fact that text 1 is written in a very formal style, whereas the author in text 2 is giving his opinion in a mocking way (e.g. *ongelofelijk bot/vreemd genoeg/alsof de oorlog is uitgebroken*).

Question 2

Candidates were asked to write a speech about the celebration of Sinterklaas. The racist element of the Sinterklaas celebration was often mentioned as a perfectly good reason to abolish the feast. Marks were awarded for awareness of purpose, situation and for the selection of material. The remaining marks could be obtained for narrative and linguistic skills.

Part 2

Question 3

A formal letter had to be written and most candidates used the correct format. Most candidates kept themselves to the points set out in the rubric. The division of marks was similar to the previous question with the majority of marks given for linguistic skills and the remainder awarded for information and awareness of purpose and situation.

<p>Paper 0503/03 Continuous Writing</p>

General comments

All essay titles, except for the poetic stimulus, were attempted this year. Almost all candidates managed to produce the required number of word as stipulated in the rubric.

At a higher level (grades A and B) candidates were expected to communicate effectively using accurate language. They selected interesting and varied material appropriate to the topic. The essays contained careful explanation, good exemplification, detailed description, appropriate division into paragraphs, a varied vocabulary and good command of sentence structure.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Als je geen mobiele telefoon hebt, hoor je er niet bij. Geef in een betoog aan in hoeverre je het eens bent met deze stelling.

Quite a few candidates opted for this question. Good essays were well-argued and highlighted the (dis)advantages of having a mobile phone and also indicated to what extent being popular was important.

Question 2

Toen je zwetend wakker werd, wist je zeker dat er net iets of iemand naast je bed gestaan had, maar er is niets meer te zien, alleen een openstaand raam ...

Many candidates wrote exciting stories with good attention to detail.

Question 3

Je vriend/vriendin, met wie je inmiddels een half jaar omgaat, heeft je geschreven dat hij/zij alleen met de relatie door wil gaan als jullie gaan trouwen. Schrijf een brief terug.

This assignment allowed candidates to write very personal and expressive letters to a dear friend.

Question 4

Schrijf voor een jongerentijdschrift een recensie van een boek dat je kortgeleden gelezen hebt.

For this assignment it was important that the content of the book was described, but also that an opinion about the book was given. Generally, the candidates did not have a problem addressing the right public.

Question 5

Je woont in een grote stad. Het is tien uur's avonds als in de hele stad de elektriciteit uitvalt. Je loopt naar buiten, richting centrum. Beschrijf wat je ziet gebeuren.

Many candidates described the chaos in the city in great detail.

Question 6

De wereldbevolking blijft maar groeien. Geef aan welke problemen zich voor zullen gaan doen en geef, waar mogelijk, een oplossing aan.

The essay had to be well-structured. Many candidates achieved this by first describing the problems in the present and in the future and then finding possible solutions.

Question 7

Schrijf een wervende tekst voor een nieuwe uitvinding: de elektronische jas.

Candidates had to be aware that they were expected to promote the new product. A mere description of the coat was not sufficient.

Question 8

Schrijf een verhaal of betoog onder de titel: Wat je niet ziet, dat is er niet.

The title called for a philosophical and closely argued essay.

Question 9

None of the candidates chose this option.